

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Ross' Goose 2. Number 1
3. Location Willow Slough, Mills Co. Ia
4. Date: 24 Mar 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 1:55 PM to 2:05 PM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
"4000 +/- Snow Geese at 500 yards. One bird picked out because of small size-- 2/3 that of other geese--and small bill--half as long and more conical than snows. Bill and size differences so clear that bird was followed for 10 min amongst large numbers of snows. All three observers easily found the bird at about the same time. I switched to the Questar and still found it."
7. Description of voice, if heard:  
NA
8. Description of behavior:  
Swimming and walking in shallow water amongst thousands of geese.
9. Habitat - general:  
Lake and marsh in Nishnabottna River bottoms.  
specific Willow S.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Snow Goose
11. Distance (how measured)?  
500 yards (estimate)
12. Optical equipment:  
20 X Bushnell scope, +/- 50 X Questar scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sun at right angle to observers, mostly on birds face.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Seen last March at Forney L. in same area of state.
15. Other observers:  
Thomas K. Shires, Peter C. Petersen
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
m inutes, copied 48 hours later
- Signature: Thomas H. Kent *Thomas H Kent* Address: 211 Richards St.
- Date: 26 Mar 1981 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240